



'cherish everyone, flourish together, serve others'

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

**Policy Lead
Committee:**

Local Academy Committee

**In consultation with:
Headteacher**

Approved by:

Date: 11th July 2024

Policy Date: 11.07.2024

Review Date: Summer 2027

Review Frequency: Three years



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1. Legal Framework

There must be a daily act of collective worship in all maintained schools for all pupils, other than those in a nursery class or a nursery school. This can take place at any time during the school day and in any groupings. Collective worship in a Church of England School must be in accordance with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. Unlike the requirement in community schools for worship to be "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character," worship at Newnham St Peter's C of E Primary School should be distinctly Christian and reflect Anglican traditions.

The trustees/governing body of the school have the responsibility for ensuring that the school can respond to IQ3 in the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Framework 2023, which asks, 'How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?' They are also tasked with monitoring and evaluating how collective worship is helping pupils and adults flourish spiritually in consultation with the headteacher.

2. School Statement on Collective Worship

At Newnham St Peter's C of E Primary School, worship is central to the life of the school and is the main platform for exploring the school's vision: "Cherish Everyone, Flourish Together, Serve Others." Collective Worship is well planned and of high quality, engaging the whole school community on a journey of discovery, exploring the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.

For Christians in church, worship is about honouring God and responding to the loving nature of God as revealed through the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Although a school is not a church, it is a collection of people from various backgrounds gathered for education. Collective worship must consider the varied circumstances of staff and pupils.

At Newnham St Peter's, the purpose of collective worship is to lead people to a threshold where they can witness worship and join in if they wish. It is a place where all can flourish spiritually.

"Worship in C of E schools promotes theological and religious literacy and liberates participants to an imagining of a different order of justice, mercy, and hope." (CEEO Vision statement "Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good" Autumn 2016)

Through Collective Worship, pupils will be offered a space and place for telling the Christian story. They will understand worship through participation in or observation of prayer, Bible reading and reflection, liturgy, sacraments, and the musical and imaginative riches of



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Christianity. Opportunities to reflect on the beauty, joy, and pain of the world will be given, allowing pupils to consider their responsibilities to others and grow in love and service. Collective Worship will also provide time for celebration, recognizing accomplishments and marking seasonal festivals of Christian (and other faiths) calendars (Collective Worship in a CofE school must be in alignment with the religious foundation of the school (Christian), however there is a responsibility for schools in all contexts to mark, respond to and learn from the festivals of other faiths. This may be designated as a separate act, not to be conflated with collective worship). Pupils will have time to contemplate and develop spiritually. Collective Worship in our school is invitational, inspirational, and inclusive.

3. Aims and Guiding Principles

This school follows the guiding principles highlighted in the document: *Collective Worship in Church of England Schools Inclusive Invitational Inspiring Guidance Document, May 2021*, which is included as Appendix 1 at the end of this policy.

Collective worship at Newnham St Peter's C of E Primary School aims to:

- Have a pivotal place in the life of the school.
- Support pupils and adults in flourishing spiritually.
- Be the central vehicle by which the school's vision is unpacked and explored, engaging the whole school community with the teachings of Jesus and the Bible.
- Provide an experience of worship that offers opportunities for those present to observe and/or respond to the presence, power, and peace of God as understood by Christians. This will always be invitational, allowing the freedom for those of other faiths and none to be present with integrity.
- Support pupils in understanding the Trinitarian nature of God in Christian belief.
- Provide varied opportunities for reflection, understanding of diverse liturgical traditions, participation, challenge, and enjoyment, enabling all to develop spiritually while contributing to the communal journey.

4. Organisation of Collective Worship

4.1 Leadership

- Daily worship is led by the headteacher, a member of staff, a pupil or small group of pupils, a whole class, a member of the clergy or local church, or individual visitors or teams such as Open the Book.



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- The local incumbent supports and leads collective worship in partnership with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) regularly, including additional services in the church throughout the church's year where possible and appropriate.
- The local incumbent/church supports worship leaders in developing their understanding of Christian theology, the teachings of the Bible, and Anglican traditions and liturgy.
- Guidance is provided to visitors leading worship. The Diocese produces a suggestion for creating an information leaflet for visitors, as detailed in the Collective Worship Guidance document.

4.2 Planning

- Worship is planned by a team including members of the school community, especially children.
- Worship reflects the cycle of the Church year and explicitly links Bible stories with the school's Christian values.
- A pattern for worship reflecting Anglican tradition is followed, using a range of materials including websites, artefacts, stories, drama scripts, artwork, music, songs, film clips, focal points (e.g., a picture or candle), and more.
- Opportunities for children and adults to explore faith in today's world are provided.
- The Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God is explored.
- Time for spiritual flourishing through prayer, stillness, and reflection is provided.

4.4 Provision for SEND

- All children, including those with SEND, are enabled to access collective worship. Adaptations and scaffolding support diverse needs, ensuring inclusivity.

4.5 Recording, Monitoring, and Evaluation

- Practical strategies for recording, monitoring, and evaluating the impact of worship are in place.
- Monitoring and evaluation involve children, staff, and link/foundation governors.
- Evidence shows how monitoring and evaluation strengthen and develop worship over time.

4.6 Roles and Responsibilities

- *Governing Body:* Ensure collective worship meets legal and school policy requirements.



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- *Headteacher and SLT:* Oversee planning, delivery, and evaluation of collective worship.
- *Teaching and Support Staff:* Participate in and contribute to collective worship.
- *Pupils:* Engage in and sometimes lead collective worship.
- *Parents and Carers:* Support the school's collective worship policy.
- *Visitors:* Contribute to and support collective worship.

4.7 Staff Development and Training

- All staff receive appropriate training and professional development opportunities to support collective worship.
- Support and guidance are provided for visitors and clergy leading collective worship.

5. Right of Withdrawal from Collective Worship

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship. Newnham St Peter's ensures that the process is clearly communicated during induction. Parents wishing to request withdrawal will meet with the headteacher to discuss their concerns and requirements.

6. Development and Sharing of the Policy

This policy is developed in consultation with the school community and linked to other policies and documentation. It is available on the school website.

7. Conclusion

This policy reflects our commitment to providing high-quality, inclusive, and inspirational collective worship, aligning with the principles and practices of the Church of England. We aim to create a supportive environment where all members of our school community can flourish spiritually.

This policy is available on the school website: [Newnham St Peter's C of E Primary School](#)

Paper copies are available on request from the School Office